

DESCRIBES VALUE OF GOOD ROADS

Department of Agriculture Official Urges Better Construction.

DEMAND FOR ENGINEERS

Inspections Made of Twenty-Eight Object Lesson Roads in South.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Washington, D. C., December 24.—The Good Roads Division of the Department of Agriculture, under the direction of Logan Waller Page, is deeply interested in the matter of better and more scientific road construction all over the South, as evidenced by the annual report of Mr. Page, just made public.

When The Times-Dispatch correspondent called on Mr. Page to-day to ascertain what had been done in Virginia during the last year, he found that official glad to talk of the work in the past and of what he expects to accomplish through intelligent effort in the future.

"During the last fiscal year," Mr. Page said, "inspections were made of twenty-eight object lesson roads, at the following places: Buford, Ala.; Opelika, Ala.; Seale, Ala.; Union Springs, Ala.; Montague, Cal.; Fernandina, Fla.; Gainesville, Fla.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Americus, Ga.; Athens, Ga.; Hinesville, Ga.; Statesboro, Ga.; Waycross, Ga.; Pendleton, Ore.; Salem, Ore.; Southport, N. C.; Cumberland Gap, Tenn.; Beaver Dam, Va.; Emporia, Va.; Norfolk, Va.; and Williamsburg, Va. Some were found in excellent condition, some in fair and some in very poor condition. Very few received systematic maintenance, and many had received none at all. In some instances the nature and amount of traffic have changed very greatly since the road was built. The road, which may have been suitable for the conditions and traffic at the time of its construction, may not be suitable for the conditions that later exist.

"The road built in 1905 at Jacksonville, Fla., is a good illustration of this change. At that time the country was sparsely settled, and no great amount of traffic went over the road. When it was completed it was the best road around Jacksonville, and the traffic, whenever possible, was diverted from other roads to it.

"In a year the traffic over it had increased fourfold. A brickyard was established by the road, and very many heavy loads were hauled over it. As Jacksonville has grown, the road now carries city traffic. Automobiles have increased in number from 199 in 1905 to 275 in 1910.

"The value of maintenance is well illustrated in the Cumberland Gap, Tennessee-Virginia-Kentucky road. The entire road was built in a similar manner, and the condition of the road over its entire length should not be the same, but this is far from being the case. The Kentucky section has been well maintained and is in excellent condition, while the Virginia-Tennessee section has received very little attention. The side ditches have not been cleaned out, and as a result, in any instance where a deep occurs on the upper side of the road, the foundation has become softened and the surface of the road irregular. On account of the road being built in a similar manner, with a grade of about 7 per cent, systematic maintenance is imperative, and any neglect of it is shown immediately by the rapid deterioration of the road.

"Almost without exception, no improved roads had been built at any of the places inspected prior to the building of the object lesson roads. In fourteen of the twenty-eight places the improvement of roads continued, and 730 miles have been built. Bonds also in the amount of \$1,500,000 have been issued. In the other fourteen places, while no surface roads have been built, owing principally to the lack of funds, a decided improvement was found in the work done upon the dirt roads.

"It is the intention of the office to inspect all the object lesson roads as soon as it is possible to do so. The demand for engineers to build these roads has been so great that every available man has been so employed, and the inspection of these roads of those roads which were most conveniently located."

CHRISTMAS EVE QUIET ON STREET

Markets Are Suspended, and Day Passes Without Incident.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) New York, December 24.—Christmas Eve was very quiet in the financial district, as the Stock Exchange, the Consolidated, the Cotton Exchange and the curb market had suspended all operations until Tuesday morning.

The Produce Exchange was open for business. According to its custom, it will have a celebration on New Year's Eve, with a one-day market on the floor of the exchange for the benefit of the children of the downtown district, presents of toys for them, and distributions of baskets of food. The exchange has raised a large sum of money for its employees.

The banks, trust companies and private banking establishments were open until noon to-day, and in many of them

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News of Petersburg

Times-Dispatch Bureau, 109 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va., December 24.

The negro, Joshua Lane, alias John Williams, arrested last night for highway robbery, was this morning sent to the Hastings Court to be tried on two separate charges. The desperado held up four or five negroes one after another, but only two of them had money with them. He took their all.

and would have continued his robberies but for the fact that he was frightened off as he attempted to hold up a white woman whom he met. George Brown was robbed of \$5 and Preacher J. G. Harris of 40 cents. All of this happened near the southern terminus of Sycamore Street, and in a holder of the streets of Petersburg.

The highwayman, who is a stranger in the city, forced his victims to yield up their money by presenting a magazine pistol to their faces and making threats of death if they resisted. The affair caused much excitement in the neighborhood.

Injured in Collision. Several evenings ago, while Charles Markert, a well-known contractor at Middleville, and Fred Kemner, a farmer of the same county, were driving home in a buggy on the Halifax Road they were run into by a team driven by a party of boisterous, drunken negroes.

The act seemed to be a deliberate one, and the two men tried to avoid the collision. Their buggy was badly broken. Mr. Markert had his left arm broken, and Mr. Kemner was severely hurt. The negroes drove off and left the two injured men.

Apprentice Templar. No. 6, Knights Templar, will attend divine service to-morrow night in a body at the Washington Street M. E. Church. Rev. George E. Booker, D. D., himself a Sir Knight, will preach a special sermon.

Promptly at noon on Monday, in accordance with their annual custom at Christmas, the Knights Templar will assemble in their assembly on Tabernacle Street, and offer a toast to the most eminent grand commander and receive the response. There will be other simple but interesting ceremonies.

Tuesday night the festival of St. John will be observed by the Masonic lodges of this city. There will be interesting ceremonies, and a banquet will be served.

Acting Rector of St. Paul's. The vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church has engaged the services of the Rev. Frank Scott, D. D., of the Payne Divinity School, in this city, as temporary rector, to officiate until a permanent rector is called to succeed the Rev. R. W. Barnwell, resigned. Mr. Barnwell has returned to his old home city, where he has been noted as a leader of military bands.

Personal and Otherwise. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lyman have issued invitations to the marriage of their daughter, Lura May, to William T. Newman, of this city. The wedding will take place in the home, on North Market Street, Wednesday, December 28, at 6 o'clock P. M.

Last night after the choir practice at High Street the Rev. J. K. Jolly, on behalf of the choir, the music committee of the church and other friends, presented a very handsome gold watch to Professor Carlo Mora, the talented organist, who made appropriate response. Professor Mora will preach Sunday at 10 o'clock, and on Monday, and next week will leave for his former home in the North.

Mr. William Crockett, who died this morning in Richmond, was the father of Mr. W. Crockett, of this city, and was the son of the late John C. Crockett, who built a great part of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, under General William Mahone. He spent much of his time in his younger days in Petersburg, and made many friends here.

Congressman Robert W. Price, a prominent merchant of this city, received a telegram this morning announcing the death of his mother, Mrs. Rebecca S. Price, of Green Bay, Wis., Edward county. Mrs. Price had long been in ill health.

The Christmas spirit was about in the city to-day, but everything was orderly. Great crowds thronged the streets, and the air was filled with the sound of horns made things lively.

All the factories and industrial establishments in the city were closed to-day and will not resume operations until Tuesday or Wednesday.

The harbor and river were clear of ice to-day for the first time in many days. The moderation in temperature and the warm rains of last night entirely melted the ice.

Sales of Loose Tobacco. The sales of loose tobacco this week were 158,715 pounds. The sales for the month were 925,750 pounds, and for the season to date 1,228,190 pounds. Sales have been suspended until January 10. Only a small portion of the crop in this section, and only the lower grades of it, has been as yet marketed.

Superintendent M. Bull, of the Southern Express Company, says the Christmas express business this year is the heaviest ever known, and it requires a

large force and many wagons to properly handle it.

Two Small Fires. The barn on the premises of Dudley Perkins in Blanford, was destroyed by fire last night about 9 o'clock. Origin of fire unknown.

Two small outhouses on the Taylor place, opposite the city in Chesterfield county, were burned this afternoon, supposed to have been the work of incendiary. The houses were unoccupied.

NEGRO, CRAZED BY DRINK, KILLS AND TRIES SUICIDE. Penn Yan, N. Y., December 24.—Charles Bennett, a negro, shot and killed Jay Close, an Dundee, Yates county, townsman, and then made an unsuccessful attempt to kill himself. Bennett, who had been drinking heavily, started down the main street, with a shotgun, loading and firing the weapon at random. Believing that the negro was only irresponsible from drink and had no murderous intentions, Close, twenty-one years old, fearlessly approached him and tried to pacify him and induce him to surrender the gun.

They were parleying when Bennett suddenly put the weapon to his shoulder and emptied a load of shot into Close's face, blowing away half of his head.

When he saw what he had done, he stood, for a moment as if stupefied, then swung the muzzle toward himself, and fired the other barrel.

Although he blew off part of his jaw, it is said that Bennett will live. He is under arrest.

BAND LEADER DIES. Death Comes to Contorno in Home of His Parents.

New York, December 24.—Louis Contorno, the military bandmaster, died on Thursday at the home of Miss Louise Beckett, of 133 Scherhorn Street, Brooklyn, who was soon to become his wife. The cause of death was heart disease.

According to Miss Beckett, who is a music teacher, she and Contorno had been engaged to be married on January 4 next and arrangements were to be made for the wedding.

On Thursday, Contorno had given, he went to call on Miss Beckett. Here he complained of being ill. While Miss Beckett was trying to aid him, Professor Contorno fell to the floor unconscious. Miss Beckett summoned a physician, but before he arrived he had died.

Professor Contorno had been in this country for twenty years, having come here from Savoy, France. For many years he had been noted as a leader of military bands.

KILLS TWO BROTHERS. Marshall Has Two Notches on Gun After Two Days in Office.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Bristol, Va., December 24.—Marshall Brasus Rathfield, living near here, this afternoon shot and killed two Thigpen brothers, Tal and J. A., and fatally wounded the third, Claude Thigpen. Rathfield was appointed marshal last Thursday, and this afternoon the Thigpen brothers notified him that he, like the other marshals, would have to leave the country or be locked up. A fight ensued, and when one of the brothers reached for his pistol, Rathfield began firing. No arrests have been made.

Sawmill Plant Burned. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Cape Charles, Va., December 24.—The steam sawmill of G. R. Mapp & Co., located near Machipongo, took fire Wednesday about 9 o'clock, and in a very short time was in a heap of ruins. The fire gained such headway in the mill that it was useless. The loss is approximately \$1,000.

Will Close Saloons for a Week. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Bristol, Va., December 24.—Although the saloon men of Bristol do not feel that they are under legal obligation to do so, by unanimous agreement among themselves they will close their doors Wednesday for a week. The whiskey shipments from here have averaged more than 1,000 packages a day.

Elks Distribute Baskets. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Alexandria, Va., December 24.—Joy was brought to about 100 hundred poor families in the city to-day by Alexandria Lodge of Elks, who distributed baskets of food with seasonable provisions. Baskets were also distributed to the various charitable organizations in the city.

Going Away for Christmas. Miss Agnes D. Randolph, superintendent of the Virginia Hospital, left yesterday for her home in Charlottesville, where she will spend several days, with relatives. Several of the nurses of the Virginia Hospital are also away for Christmas, including Miss M. L. Bowyer, who is in Charlottesville; Miss Ellie Nelson, who is in Southern Boston; and Miss Victoria Leo Powell, who is visiting relatives in Richmond.

The nurses of the Virginia Hospital have arranged to give a dance on Monday at the Elks Home, Tenth and Marshall Streets.

Bank Remembers Employees. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Roanoke, Va., December 24.—The First National Bank of this city, presented each of its employees with a month's salary as a Christmas gift this afternoon.

HAS 'ENGAGEMENT' WITH PRESIDENT

Lulu Irene Davis Walks All the Way From Columbia to Keep It.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Washington, December 24.—To keep an "engagement" with President Taft, on January 2, Lulu Irene Davis, colored, recently discharged from the South Carolina State Hospital for the Insane, walked from Columbia, S. C., to Washington, and this morning called at the office of the district sanitary officer, to "commit" herself until the date set for her "audience" at the White House.

"Just send this to Bob Fitzsimmons," she told an official, handing him a note which read:

"Dear Bob: Will you kindly come to Washington city at police headquarters and bring all the things this tag calls for and oblige."

"Yours," "LULU IRENE DAVIS."

"Left Columbia on November 11," she said, "with \$2.50 and I still have 15 cents left. A few days ago I got a letter from the President telling me it would be all right if I would call at the White House and see him."

LEAMON CHANDLER DROWNED. Falls Overboard from Loaded Car Float and Loses Life.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Cape Charles, Va., December 24.—Leamon Chandler, son of Captain Ed. Chandler, a prominent citizen of Chazy, Acadia county, who was employed by the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Ferry, fell overboard from a loaded car float just after leaving Port Norfolk at 1 o'clock this morning and was drowned.

The second mate of the tugboat, which was towing the float, heard his cries, but was unable to render him any assistance. Captain Chandler, of the tugboat, saw Chandler go down just as he was making a landing.

It is supposed that Chandler was placing a lamp on the rear of the barge, and while returning to the pilot-house lost his footing on the icy deck. He had only been in the tugboat for a few minutes. Up to 1 o'clock this evening his body had not been found.

A reward was offered by the railroad company for the recovery of the body. Chandler is a single man and about twenty-three years old.

NEWSBOYS SEE TAFT. Statesmen Wait While President Greets Little Brothers.

Washington, December 24.—Statesmen and statesmanship had to take a back seat for a few minutes at the White House to-day while President Taft gave cordial greetings to three of these youngsters.

Israel, Sammy and David April, two of these youngsters, serve papers at and around the White House. They wanted to shake hands with the President, about whom they had heard so much. They were promised yesterday that they would get the opportunity.

They washed their faces and hands with soap, and then, smiling and cheerful, while they stood in the hallway just outside of the President's

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These cheap concoctions are foisted on the people with the intent to deceive by dealers mindful of their profits only and caring nothing for the health of their patrons. Some try to make you believe it is Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey. Others go as far as to refill our bottles with these concoctions and endeavor to fool the people into buying their spurious goods as the genuine. Keep a close watch and do not buy one of these refilled bottles.

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Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey Is Beneficial

It is an absolutely pure distillation of malted grain. Its palatability and its freedom from injurious substances render it so that it can be retained by the most sensitive stomach. It has been used with remarkable results in the treatment of consumption, pneumonia, grip, coughs, colds, asthma, malaria, low fevers, stomach troubles and all wasted and diseased conditions.

The genuine Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is sold in sealed bottles only. The "Old Chemist's Head" is on the label and over the cork is an engraved seal. Be certain this seal is unbroken. Sold by druggists, grocers and dealers everywhere or direct, \$1.00 a large bottle. The Duffy Malt Whiskey Co., Rochester, N. Y.

room Samuel and Israel began matching cigarette pictures, and Samuel, nine, managed to do so. The boys, a bunch of mighty fine photos of celebrated ball players and noted actresses. The secret service men didn't stop the little game, which was broken up by the announcement that the President would see the youngsters.

A dozen statesmen were standing around the President's room when the kids entered, but he left them all and saluted his visitors, telling them he wished them every pleasure and happiness during the Christmas season.

All except Israel were somewhat abashed at the great crowd that had come to the White House, red-headed, and good-natured, managed to get his nerve and stammer out:

"We'll come in and box for yer, some time."

"That'll be fine," said the President. "Sometimes with gloves and sometimes without," declared Israel. "And I can lick him, too," put in Sammy.

"He can't when I get mad," asserted the President, who was doing well themselves and found they were doing well. "We made \$9 yesterday," they told him.

BARRIER FLIES HIGH Frenchman Reaches Altitude of 6,130 Feet on New Orleans.

New Orleans, December 24.—In establishing the first local altitude record of 6,130 feet this afternoon, in the opening day of the ten days' international aviation meet in this city, Rene Barriere, French aviator, in a Blériot fifty-horsepower monoplane, flew over the business district of New Orleans.

This made the second cross city flight of the day, John B. Moisant, having flown for the first time, at a height of 4,000 feet. He traveled thirty-five miles in his flight and established what is claimed as a world's record for cross city flights in duration of time aloft.

Rene Barriere flew twice over Lake Pontchartrain and showed wonderful control. Barriere, Moisant, Rene Simon, in monoplanes, made a number of flights, while Charles K. Hamilton, in his Hamilton biplane, made the first flight he has attempted since his accident at Memphis.

WORK IS BEGUN Redoubts for Panama Fortifications Already Under Way.

Washington, December 24.—Work has been begun in the isthmus zone on the redoubts which are to be part of the fortification of the Panama Canal. The plans indicate that the "army post" will be the most important under charge of the War Department. A major-general will be assigned to the command.

In order to show that this dependence for safety as to Hawaii is in the army at present, it is only necessary to say that the War Department intends to have on the islands a regiment of cavalry, two regiments of infantry, a battalion and regiment of quarters of field artillery, a company of signal corps, a company of engineers, a detachment of a full company of hospital corps, and at least one company of the coast artillery, if not a greater representation of that branch.

COMMODORE VEDDER DEAD He Was Author of New York's Inheritance Tax Law.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) New York, December 24.—After an illness of less than twenty-four hours, Commodore P. Vedder, one-time State Senator and the author of the State inheritance tax law, died at his home in the Hotel Majestic from heart disease. His death was sudden and unexpected.

Mr. Vedder had made his home in the Hotel Majestic for some time. He was a native of Elizabethtown, N. Y., where he was born in 1839. In 1878 he was elected to the State Senate from his home district, and in 1881 he was re-elected. He remained in the Senate until 1891.

Mr. Vedder was a lawyer and a veteran of the Civil War. He had long been prominent in the Republican party in the State.

SHORT OF FUNDS But Daughter of Arkansas Will Christen Battleship.

Washington, D. C., December 24.—A daughter of the State of Arkansas is the best at probability will christen the great 26,000-ton battleship, Arkansas, at Camden, N. J., on January 13, despite the fact that the Legislature of the State failed to make any appropriation for an extensive participation of that Com-

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